

AN ACT

relating to measures to support public school student academic achievement and high school, college, and career preparation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Sections 7.0561(b), (c), (d), and (j), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(b) The Texas High Performance Schools Consortium is established to inform the governor, legislature, State Board of Education, and commissioner concerning methods for transforming public schools in this state by improving student learning through the development of innovative, next-generation learning standards and assessment and accountability systems, including standards and systems relating to career and college readiness.

(c) From among school districts and eligible open-enrollment charter schools that apply using the form and in the time and manner established by commissioner rule, the commissioner may select not more than 30 [~~20~~] participants for the consortium. The districts selected by the commissioner must represent a range of district types, sizes, and diverse student populations, as determined by the commissioner in accordance with commissioner rule. To be eligible to participate in the consortium, an open-enrollment charter school must have been awarded a an [~~an exemplary~~] distinction designation under Subchapter G, Chapter 39, during the preceding school year.

1 (d) The number of students enrolled in consortium  
2 participants may not be greater than a number equal to 10 [~~five~~]  
3 percent of the total number of students enrolled in public schools  
4 in this state according to the most recent agency data.

5 (j) The [~~With the assistance of the~~] school districts and  
6 open-enrollment charter schools participating in the consortium[~~7~~  
7 ~~the commissioner~~] shall submit reports concerning the performance  
8 and progress of the consortium to the governor, and [~~and~~] the  
9 legislature, the State Board of Education, and the commissioner not  
10 later than December 1 of each even-numbered year [~~7, 2012, and not~~  
11 ~~later than December 1, 2014~~]. [~~The report submitted not later than~~  
12 ~~December 1, 2012, must include any recommendation by the~~  
13 ~~commissioner concerning legislative authorization for the~~  
14 ~~commissioner to waive a prohibition, requirement, or restriction~~  
15 ~~that applies to a consortium participant. That report must also~~  
16 ~~include a plan for an effective and efficient accountability system~~  
17 ~~for consortium participants that balances academic excellence and~~  
18 ~~local values to inspire learning and, at the state level,~~  
19 ~~contingent on any necessary waiver of federal law, may incorporate~~  
20 ~~use of a stratified random sampling of students or other objective~~  
21 ~~methodology to hold consortium participants accountable while~~  
22 ~~attempting to reduce the number of state assessment instruments~~  
23 ~~that are required to be administered to students. The commissioner~~  
24 ~~shall seek a federal waiver, to any extent necessary, to prepare for~~  
25 ~~implementation of the plan if enacted by the legislature. This~~  
26 ~~subsection expires January 1, 2018.~~]

27 SECTION 2. Section 28.009(b), Education Code, is amended to

1 read as follows:

2 (b) The agency shall coordinate with the Texas Higher  
3 Education Coordinating Board as necessary in administering this  
4 section. The commissioner may adopt rules as necessary concerning  
5 the duties under this section of a school district. The Texas  
6 Higher Education Coordinating Board may adopt rules as necessary  
7 concerning the duties under this section of a public institution of  
8 higher education. A rule may not limit the number of dual credit  
9 courses or semester credit hours in which a student may enroll while  
10 in high school or limit the number of dual credit courses or  
11 semester credit hours in which a student may enroll each semester or  
12 academic year.

13 SECTION 3. (a) Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code,  
14 is amended by adding Section 28.015 to read as follows:

15 Sec. 28.015. PUBLIC OUTREACH MATERIALS TO PROMOTE  
16 CURRICULUM CHANGE AWARENESS. (a) The agency shall develop uniform  
17 public outreach materials that explain the importance and outline  
18 the details of public school curriculum changes under Chapter 211  
19 (H.B. 5), Acts of the 83rd Legislature, Regular Session, 2013, and  
20 subsequent associated decisions by the State Board of Education.  
21 The agency shall make the materials available to school districts.

22 (b) The materials developed under this section must:

23 (1) be available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese;

24 (2) be in a form that would allow school districts to  
25 mail the information to students and parents; and

26 (3) include an explanation of:

27 (A) the basic career and college readiness

1 components of each endorsement under Section 28.025(c-1);

2 (B) the curriculum requirements to gain  
3 automatic college admission under Section 51.803; and

4 (C) applicable course, graduation plan, and  
5 endorsement requirements for financial aid authorized under Title  
6 3, including curriculum requirements for:

7 (i) the TEXAS grant as provided under  
8 Subchapter M, Chapter 56;

9 (ii) the Texas Educational Opportunity  
10 Grant Program as provided under Subchapter P, Chapter 56; and

11 (iii) the Texas B-On-time loan program as  
12 provided under Subchapter Q, Chapter 56.

13 (c) This section expires September 1, 2018.

14 (b) The Texas Education Agency shall develop the materials  
15 described under Section 28.015, Education Code, as added by this  
16 section, no later than December 1, 2015.

17 SECTION 4. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is  
18 amended by adding Section 28.016 to read as follows:

19 Sec. 28.016. INSTRUCTION IN HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE, AND  
20 CAREER PREPARATION. (a) Each school district shall provide  
21 instruction to students in grade seven or eight in preparing for  
22 high school, college, and a career.

23 (b) The instruction must include information regarding:

24 (1) the creation of a high school personal graduation  
25 plan under Section 28.02121;

26 (2) the distinguished level of achievement described  
27 by Section 28.025(b-15);

1           (3) each endorsement described by Section  
2 28.025(c-1);  
3           (4) college readiness standards; and  
4           (5) potential career choices and the education needed  
5 to enter those careers.

6           (c) A school district may:

7           (1) provide the instruction as part of an existing  
8 course in the required curriculum;

9           (2) provide the instruction as part of an existing  
10 career and technology course designated by the State Board of  
11 Education as appropriate for that purpose; or

12           (3) establish a new elective course through which to  
13 provide the instruction.

14           (d) Each school district shall ensure that at least once in  
15 grade seven or eight each student receives the instruction under  
16 this section.

17           SECTION 5. Subchapter A, Chapter 33, Education Code, is  
18 amended by adding Section 33.009 to read as follows:

19           Sec. 33.009. POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AND CAREER COUNSELING  
20 ACADEMIES. (a) In this section, "center" means the Center for  
21 Teaching and Learning at The University of Texas at Austin.

22           (b) The center shall develop and make available  
23 postsecondary education and career counseling academies for school  
24 counselors and other postsecondary advisors employed by a school  
25 district at a middle school, junior high school, or high school.

26           (c) In developing academies under this section, the center  
27 shall solicit input from the agency, school counselors, the Texas

1 Workforce Commission, institutions of higher education, and  
2 business, community, and school leaders.

3 (d) An academy developed under this section must provide  
4 counselors and other postsecondary advisors with knowledge and  
5 skills to provide counseling to students regarding postsecondary  
6 success and productive career planning and must include information  
7 relating to:

8 (1) each endorsement described by Section  
9 28.025(c-1), including:

10 (A) the course requirements for each  
11 endorsement; and

12 (B) the postsecondary educational and career  
13 opportunities associated with each endorsement;

14 (2) available methods for a student to earn credit for  
15 a course not offered at the school in which the student is enrolled,  
16 including enrollment in an electronic course provided through the  
17 state virtual school network under Chapter 30A;

18 (3) general academic performance requirements for  
19 admission to an institution of higher education, including the  
20 requirements for automatic admission to a general academic teaching  
21 institution under Section 51.803;

22 (4) regional workforce needs, including information  
23 about the required education and the average wage or salary for  
24 careers that meet those workforce needs; and

25 (5) effective strategies for engaging students and  
26 parents in planning for postsecondary education and potential  
27 careers, including participation in mentorships and business

1 partnerships.

2 (e) The center shall develop an online instructional  
3 program that school districts may use in providing the instruction  
4 in high school, college, and career preparation required by Section  
5 28.016. The program must be structured for use as part of an  
6 existing course.

7 (f) The center may access the P-20/Workforce Data  
8 Repository established under Section 1.005(j-1) in developing  
9 training, instructional programs, and technological tools under  
10 this section and conducting related evaluations. The center may be  
11 provided access to the data repository through collaboration with  
12 the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board or a center for  
13 education research established under Section 1.005. The agency and  
14 the coordinating board may not condition the center's access to the  
15 data repository on agency or board review of the proposed training,  
16 instructional programs, technological tools, or related  
17 evaluations developed by the center.

18 (g) A teacher of a course described by Section 28.016(c)(2)  
19 or (3) may attend an academy developed under this section.

20 (h) From funds appropriated for that purpose, a school  
21 counselor who attends the academy under this section is entitled to  
22 receive a stipend in the amount determined by the center. If funds  
23 are available after all eligible school counselors have received a  
24 stipend under this subsection, the center shall pay a stipend in the  
25 amount determined by the center to a teacher who attends the academy  
26 under this section. A stipend received under this subsection is not  
27 considered in determining whether a district is paying the school

1 counselor or teacher the minimum monthly salary under Section  
2 21.402.

3 (i) From available funds appropriated for purposes of this  
4 section, the center may provide to school counselors and other  
5 educators curricula, instructional materials, and technological  
6 tools relating to postsecondary education and career counseling.

7 (j) The center shall comply with any applicable provision of  
8 the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C.  
9 Section 1232g) in performing its duties or exercising its authority  
10 under this section.

11 SECTION 6. (a) Section 51.3062, Education Code, is amended  
12 by adding Subsection (u) to read as follows:

13 (u) An institution of higher education that administers an  
14 assessment instrument to students under this section shall report  
15 to each school district from which assessed students graduated high  
16 school all available information regarding student scores and  
17 performance on the assessment instrument and student demographics.  
18 The board shall adopt rules as necessary to implement this  
19 subsection, including rules for implementing this subsection in a  
20 manner that complies with federal law regarding confidentiality of  
21 student medical or educational information, including the Health  
22 Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C.  
23 Section 1320d et seq.) and the Family Educational Rights and  
24 Privacy Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C. Section 1232g), and any state law  
25 relating to the privacy of student information.

26 (b) Section 51.3062(u), Education Code, as added by this  
27 section, applies beginning with assessment instruments

1 administered by public institutions of higher education to entering  
2 undergraduate students for the 2016 fall semester.

3 SECTION 7. Section 130.008, Education Code, is amended by  
4 adding Subsections (g) and (h) to read as follows:

5 (g) A course offered for joint high school and junior  
6 college credit under this section must be taught by a qualified  
7 instructor approved or selected by the public junior college. For  
8 purposes of this subsection, an instructor is qualified if the  
9 instructor holds:

10 (1) a doctoral or master's degree in the discipline  
11 that is the subject of the course;

12 (2) a master's degree in another discipline with a  
13 concentration that required completion of a minimum of 18 graduate  
14 semester hours in the discipline that is the subject of the course;  
15 or

16 (3) for a course that is offered in an associate degree  
17 program and that is not designed for transfer to a baccalaureate  
18 degree program:

19 (A) a degree described by Subdivision (1) or (2);

20 (B) a baccalaureate degree in the discipline that  
21 is the subject of the course; or

22 (C) an associate degree and demonstrated  
23 competencies in the discipline that is the subject of the course, as  
24 determined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

25 (h) Not later than the 60th day after receipt, a public  
26 junior college shall approve or reject an application for approval  
27 to teach a course at a high school that is submitted by an

1 instructor employed by the school district, organization, or other  
2 person that operates the high school with which the junior college  
3 entered into an agreement under this section to offer the course.

4 SECTION 8. Section 303.003(b-2), Labor Code, is amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (b-2) In addition to the purposes described by Subsections  
7 (b) and (b-1), in each state fiscal biennium, an amount of money  
8 from the skills development fund not to exceed five percent of the  
9 amount of general revenue appropriated to the skills development  
10 fund for that biennium may be used as provided by this subsection.  
11 Funds available to the commission from other sources may also be  
12 used as provided by this subsection. Funds may be awarded under  
13 this subsection to a lower-division institution of higher education  
14 to be used under an agreement with a school district, or to a school  
15 district to be used under an agreement with a lower-division  
16 institution of higher education, to support courses offered for  
17 joint high school and college-level credit or offered under a  
18 college credit career or technical education program that leads to  
19 an industry-recognized license, credential, or certificate.  
20 Appropriate uses of funds awarded under this subsection include  
21 purchasing or repairing necessary equipment for a course and  
22 developing a course curriculum. A course or program supported  
23 under this subsection must:

24 (1) have the endorsement of, or a letter of support  
25 from, at least one employer in this state; and

26 (2) be targeted to address the needs of high-demand  
27 fields or occupations, as identified by the applicable local

1 workforce development board.

2 SECTION 9. Section 28.016, Education Code, as added by this  
3 Act, applies beginning with the 2015-2016 school year.

4 SECTION 10. This Act takes effect immediately if it  
5 receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each  
6 house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution.  
7 If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate  
8 effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 18 was passed by the House on May 12, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 136, Nays 9, 2 present, not voting; that the House refused to concur in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 18 on May 29, 2015, and requested the appointment of a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; and that the House adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 18 on May 31, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 135, Nays 8, 2 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

H.B. No. 18

I certify that H.B. No. 18 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 27, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 1; at the request of the House, the Senate appointed a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; and that the Senate adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 18 on May 31, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 1.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor